

NCCU Committee on Hungarian Refugee Students

Meeting: University of Montreal, March 28th, 1957, at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Dr. Frank Stiling, Secretary Treasurer of N.C.C.U., Rev. Maurice Beauchamp, Messrs. Matthews, Evans, McLeish, Blanchard.

Owing to the resignation of Father Beauchamp as Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Stiling states that he has taken the initiative of calling a meeting. Mr. Evans proposes that Dr. Stiling be appointed Chairman of the meeting. Dr. McLeish seconds the motion which is carried unanimously.

Dr. McLeish proposes that Dr. Blanchard be appointed Secretary of the meeting. Mr. Evans seconds the motion which is carried unanimously.

Dr. Blanchard submits the minutes of the meeting held on February 23rd. These minutes are approved unanimously as moved by Mr. Evans and seconded by Father Beauchamp.

Dr. Stiling reads a letter of resignation from Father Beauchamp as Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Evans moves that the Committee accepts this resignation with sincerest appreciation for the laborious, conscientious and kindly way in which Father Beauchamp discharged his obligations. Dr. Matthews seconds the motion and all the members are in favour.

Dr. Stiling reads this letter sent to Father Beauchamp:-

" Dear Sir:

In reply to the request of the Committee that the Directors of the National Conference of Canadian Universities should lay down terms of reference, I am quoting a minute of a meeting of the Board of Directors held in Ottawa on March 19, 1957

" The Board agreed that this Committee should confine its functions to:

- (a) Co-operating with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, WUSC, the Universities of Canada and any other recognized agency whose work with the Hungarian refugee students impinges on the work of this Committee;
- (b) Documenting the Hungarian students at the office of the Co-ordinating Committee at 1162 St. Antoine Street, Montreal;
- (c) Arranging with universities about the admissibility of students;
- (d) Informing the students about Canadian universities;
- (e) Conferring with the Immigration authorities about the transfer of the students;
- (f) Ensuring that provision is made for concentrated training in the English or French language in the communities where the students may be."

I trust that this minute will provide the terms of reference for your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) F. Stiling  
Secretary-Treasurer, N.C.C.U."

Dr. Stiling states that the Executive Committee of the N.C.C.U.

- a) expressed the hope that the work of this Committee be completed by May 31st;
- b) endorsed strongly the principle of the dispersal of the students across Canada;
- c) asserted that this Committee should not engage in a financial campaign.

Dr. Stiling expresses the dissatisfaction of many members of the Executive Committee of the N.C.C.U. as well as the criticisms from many Canadian Universities relatively to the fact that Hungarian students are kept too long in Montreal. It is claimed that it is impossible to get Hungarian students out of Montreal and that Registrars do not hear about what is going on in Montreal.

Mr. Evans would like to know how many students have arrived already and how many more are coming. Dr. Blanchard says that a census was taken by the Directors. The figures could be obtained from them at the afternoon session.

Mr. Matthews claims that the office is understaffed to cope with the work. Dr. McLeish emphasizes the lack of communication with the Registrars and suggests that the office may not be understaffed but that the Directors had understandably to suffer from the lack of a set procedure. He further claims that the May 21st deadline is much too soon and asserts that the Board of Directors of the N.C.C.U. should realize the implications of the work to be done.

Father Beauchamp is in favour of the deadline. Dr. McLeish would also be in favour if the principle of the movement of the students should be adhered to. Dr. Matthews is also favourable to a deadline but without implying any rush.

Mr. Evans says that we are confronted with a problem of administrative efficiency and that we should try to reduce the paper work. To save time, a general introduction to the situation in Canadian Universities could be mimeographed and distributed to the students. Dr. McLeish and Dr. Matthews are in favour of such a document and they both expressed the opinion that accordingly the interviews could be limited to academic implications.

All the members agreed to the suggestion of asking the Department for a large wall-map.

Mr. Evans expresses the opinion that copies of the interview records be sent to suitable Universities. He emphasizes the necessity of a wide open choice for the Universities and also for the students. Dr. McLeish asks about the relationships with WUSC. Mr. Evans says that he is aware of the problems facing WUSC, but he is of the opinion that the Committee should leave these problems aside for the moment.

It is agreed that the first students to be dispersed should be those residing at St. Paul l'Ermite and those residing at 1162 St. Antoine St. The others, that is those residing at St. Angèle Hostel and at Petofi House, would be moved only if they so wished. Father Beauchamp says that the procedure relative to the dispersion of the students should be in accordance with the interviews by the Directors.

Dr. Stiling makes a review of the situation relative to the language classes given under the auspices of the International Rescue Committee. Dr. Matthews reads a letter in which the figure of \$1,500 is mentioned as being the contribution of the N.C.C.U. Committee towards the cost of those language classes. A cheque for \$1,000 was sent to the N.C.C.U. Committee, but returned by Dr. Stiling.

Dr. Stiling reads a letter from Mr. Douglass Burns Clark, President of the International Rescue Committee, in which the N.C.C.U. Committee is asked to contribute \$1,500 towards the cost of the English classes. It is moved by Mr. Evans that a sum not exceeding \$1,500 be paid to the International Rescue Committee to meet the cost of instruction in English being given by the International Rescue Committee. This motion is seconded by Dr. McLeish and carried unanimously.

Dr. Stiling distributes the financial report:-

Financial Report, March 27, 1957

Receipts

Department of Citizenship and Immigration	\$ 5,000.00
International Rescue Committee	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$ 6,000.00

Expenditures

February	1 - Petty cash	\$ 100.00
	7 - Petty cash	100.00
	12 - Expenses (Beauchamp)	51.96
	12 - Expenses (Mrs Lebleu)	38.00
	12 - Expenses (Matthews)	9.40
	12 - Expenses (Evans)	96.80
	21 - Expenses (Beauchamp)	29.40
	21 - Expenses (Blanchard)	31.00
	21 - Expenses (3 copies of Yearbook)	6.00
	25 - Salary (Mrs Smith: Jan. 23-Feb. 28)	645.16
	25 - Salary (Décarie: February)	500.00
	25 - Salary (Miss Chicoine: February)	240.00
	28 - Expenses (Evans)	43.45
March	1 - Petty cash	400.00
	1 - Expenses (Perinbam: 2 meetings)	72.85
	4 - I.R.C.	<u>1,000.00</u>
	11 - Expenses (Perinbam)	53.70
	11 - Expenses (Beauchamp)	11.00
	11 - Salary (Décarie: March 1-15)	250.00
	11 - Salary (Miss Chicoine: March 1-15)	120.00
	18 - Salary (Pogany: 3 weeks)	285.00
	20 - Expenses (Beauchamp)	30.00
	20 - Salary (Mrs. Smith: March)	500.00
	20 - Salary (Décarie: March 16-31)	250.00
	20 - Salary (Chicoine: March 16-31)	<u>120.00</u>
		<u>4,983.72</u>

Balance

\$ 1,016.28

But certain expenses and long distance calls have not yet been charged.

After reading that financial report, the members of the Committee are in favour of putting a requisition to the Department for more funds.

Mr. Evans proposes that the Chairmanship of the Committee be accepted by Dr. T.H. Matthews. He so moves that Dr. Matthews be elected Chairman of this Committee effective March 29, with the assurance of the fullest co-operation on the

part of the members of the Committee and with the assurance that necessary secretarial assistance will be made available by the Committee. This motion is seconded by Father Beauchamp and it is carried unanimously.

It is moved by Dr. Matthews and seconded by Mr. Evans that an expression of warm appreciation and gratitude for the hospitality granted by the University of Montreal be accepted by the members of the Committee. This motion is carried unanimously.

Finally, it is moved by Father Beauchamp that the financial report presented by Dr. Stiling be approved. This motion is seconded by Dr. Matthews and carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourns for lunch.

At the afternoon session of the meeting, Mrs Smith, Director, and Mr. Décarie, co-Director, are present. Dr. Stiling gives a summary of the morning session.

Dr. Stiling asks Mr. Evans to outline the procedure which could be followed in handling the movement of students from 1162 St. Antoine. He especially emphasizes the fact that the office could send to Registrars whatever information they actually have. He also asks if it would be possible to have some information in Hungarian to be given to students relative to the Canadian Universities. Mrs. Smith then reads a report on the activities of the office:

" Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to present a report of the work done in the Hungarian Refugee Students' Centre.

As of this date, there are approximately 350 students of whom we have some record in our office. Of this number, there are about 75 in the St. Angele Hostel, 80 in the Petofi House, 20 in the Y.W.C.A., 25 in the Immigration Building and 30 out in St. Paul l'Hermite. A group of 25 were sent to Hamilton on Tuesday. This makes a total of 255 living in hostels; the remaining 95 are living with families or out of town. Adding an approximate 250 students in Vancouver, 150 in Toronto, and 75 more who have just recently arrived at St. Paul l'Hermite, we have a total of about 825 students in Canada now. The other half of our most recently arrived group is coming in a few days. With this additional 75, we shall have approximately 900 Hungarian refugee students in Canada.

We have documentation in various stages of completion on 305 students. Of these about 200 were interviewed in the office, the others either at St. Angele or St. Paul l'Hermite. Almost all have been interviewed at least twice.

We have received 27 requests from W.U.S. 12 of these are in various stages of completion.

At the request of the Department of Immigration, we are co-operating in their plan to disburse groups of 25 students to various University centres.

The first group left for McMaster University in Hamilton on Tuesday. Only students who might be eligible for admission to one of the faculties at that University and who had expressed a willingness to continue their studies there if it were possible, were sent. As soon as the pressure in the office

abates enough to cope with some of the backlog of office routine and correspondence, we plan to send the dossiers to McMaster, so that they may have the information on hand when the students file applications for admission.

We are now completing a list for Western Ontario, and working on two others, one for Queens and one for the University of Alberta. A possible list for the University of New Brunswick was also mentioned.

The suggestion has been made that the universities should know more of what is going on in our Centre, but unfortunately, our office staff, as it now stands, is hopelessly inadequate to cope even with the existing backlog of correspondence.

I would like to thank Dr. Bernolak for his help in our student movement project; the Department of Immigration for the loan of interpreters and typists; the I.R.C. for their wonderful contribution with the English classes, without which the Hungarian student morale would have suffered quite appreciably; McGill University, Cardinal Léger, and the Y.W.C.A. for the provision of hostels; the Red Cross, and several private persons for their contribution of clothing and money to take care of special needs and some allowances. Without their help in the solution of the basic needs problem, that of collecting academic records would have been an even harder one.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) M. Smith"

It is moved by Dr. McLeish that the Chairman be empowered to provide extra necessary secretarial help for the office. This motion is seconded by Father Beauchamp and is carried unanimously.

It is moved by Mr. Evans that the report presented by Mrs Smith be accepted. Father Beauchamp seconds this motion. It is carried unanimously.

It is suggested by the Chairman that this report be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

Mrs Smith submits a financial statement. It is suggested also by the Chairman that this statement be incorporated to the minutes of the meeting.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Feb. 14	-	Cheque from N.C.C.U.	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
14	1	Petty cash		\$ 50.00	150.00
14	2	Underwood Limited (Typewriter rental)		10.50	139.50
14	3	Gestetner Limited (Forms)		42.31	97.19
15	4	Pineault & Fils		73.65	23.54
Mar. 11	-	Cheque from N.C.C.U.	400.00		423.54
15	5	M. Jean-Guy Décarie (expenses)		12.38	411.16
15	6	Petty Cash		23.45	387.71
15	7	Thérien Frères (Letterheads)		149.30	238.41
15	8	Underwood Limited (Typewriter rental)		10.50	227.91
15	9	Bell Telephone Co. of Canada (Feb.)		56.01	171.90

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Mar . 25	10	Bell Telephone Co. of Canada (March)	-	\$ 171.90
25	11	Charters & Charters Limited (Stationaries)	\$ 130.44	41.46
25	12	Gestetner Limited (Forms)	8.83	32.63
			9.24	23.39

It is suggested that Dr. Matthews should write a letter to the University Heads outlining the situation and especially emphasizing the situation as far as the language courses are concerned.

At this point, the representatives of the Department are admitted to the meeting. These representatives are Dr. Bernolak, Mr. Cross and Mr. Lefebvre. It is asserted by the Department that students move now to a community would be transported by the Department to another community if they are accepted by another University. Mr. Lefebvre says that the Department's responsibility ends one year after arrival of any immigrant. Mr. Cross will clarify with the Minister the allowance to students. With reference to the wall-map, Mr. Lefebvre will look to it. Mr. Cross specifies that the Department has agreement with the Provinces for work in languages and Citizenship. Mr. Décarie asks if he could deal directly with the French Universities. The members of the Committee are in favour that Mr. Décarie deal directly with the French Universities, provided Mrs Smith be informed.

Dr. Matthews moves the adjournment of the meeting.